

Clifton Heights Borough Council
Meeting Minutes
January 20, 2015

Present:

Anthony Casadei, Council President
Edward Martin, Council Vice President
Betsy Berry, Councilwoman
Mike Humphreys, Councilman
Leona Papale, Councilwoman
Karen Peterson, Councilwoman
Harris Resnick, Councilman
Jane Tumolo, Councilwoman

Others Present:

Joseph T. Kelly, Mayor
Frank Catania, Solicitor
J.P. Kelly, Engineer
Stella Economidis, Treasurer
Timothy Rockenbach, Chief of Police
Tony Tartaglia, Borough Manager/Code

Pledge of Allegiance

Prayer Led by Mayor Kelly

Public Comment:

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., provided pictures to members of Council of a tree on his street. He said that the tree is in front of 86-88 Chester and has grown into the sidewalk. He said that according to the Americans with Disabilities Act, the sidewalk is supposed to be about 36 inches wide so that a wheelchair could pass through. He said where the tree is growing into the sidewalk; it is about 18 inches wide. He said that this is in direct conflict with the Americans with Disabilities' Act.

President Casadei asked Mr. Tartaglia if he could look at the tree that Mr. Rich is referencing.

Mr. Rich said that he contacted the American with Disabilities' Act representatives who told him that he needed to direct his problem to the Borough, and they would have to have a chance to correct the situation before he could file a complaint. He said that there is a history with this tree. He said that he was a Deputy Code Enforcement Officer in 1995, and the Borough brought in Mr. Tartaglia to be the Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer in January of 1996. He said that he brought this tree to the attention of Mr. Tartaglia in January of 1996. He said that Mr. Tartaglia said then that they would look into it and correct the situation and that was 20 years ago.

President Casadei said that they would have Mr. Tartaglia look at the tree.

Meeting Minutes:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the December meeting minutes as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Mayor's Report:

Mayor Kelly thanked all of the Council members for their support of Chief Rockenbach and the entire Police Department during the past month. He said that it was important for them to all know that they have the support of their Council, and he was grateful to all who reached out.

Mayor Kelly thanked the Fire Department for their work at the Clifton Car Wash fire. He said that they have a great, young volunteer Fire Company who is not afraid of anything and will do anything to put a fire out. He said that he was thankful that he got to see that firsthand.

Police Report:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to accept the Police Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Fire Report:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Fire Report as presented; seconded by Councilman Humphreys; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Treasurer's Report/Bill List:

A motion was made by Councilwoman Berry to accept the treasurer's report and pay the bills; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a roll call vote of 8-0. (Resnick – yes, Humphreys – yes, Berry – yes, Martin – yes, Peterson – yes, Tumolo – yes, Papale – yes, Casadei – yes.)

Manager's Report:

Mr. Tartaglia said that he had nothing additional to add to his report.

Engineer's Report:

J.P. Kelly presented the Engineer's report.

Mr. Kelly reported that the 2014 Road Program completion report was completed and accepted by PENNDOT, so County Aid should be coming in the near future.

A motion was made by Councilwoman Papale to adopt Resolution 01-15, submitting their CDBG application for playground improvements to County Council; seconded by Councilman Martin; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Engineer's Report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Solicitor's Report:

Mr. Catania presented the Solicitor's Report.

He noted that he provided the Manager the unclaimed property reports for the Manager and the Tax Collector to assign.

He noted 4 tax assessment appeals that had been filed within the Borough so far – 257 Cambridge - \$352 at risk, 63 Madison - \$326 at risk, 39 Walnut - \$308 at risk, 409 Cherry - \$224.76 at risk. He said that they will continue to monitor that.

He noted that the documents for the TAN note had been filed and are being reviewed by Republic Bank.

He noted that they have a matter scheduled with Mr. Rich for February 24, 2015 and that they had provided available dates to the mediator, who will be in touch with corresponding dates that work for her.

He noted that they had Executive Session for a police personnel issue and a potential litigation matter to discuss at the conclusion of the meeting.

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to accept the Solicitor's report as presented; seconded by Councilwoman Berry; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Old Business:

Councilwoman Papale asked if they could revisit recycling. She asked Mr. Tartaglia if he had the report numbers that she had requested.

Mr. Tartaglia said that he would bring them to the Finance Committee meeting.

Councilwoman Papale said that she wanted to try to make an aggressive push to reengage residents to continue with their recycling efforts. She said that she had noted less participation in her trips around her ward, and she thought it would be prudent to remind residents about its importance.

Councilman Resnick said that they could send out a recycling reminder to all households in the spring.

Councilwoman Papale asked if there was anything with grants floating around.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they recently received something, and he could go over it with her after the meeting.

New Business:

No new business.

Ward Reports:

Councilman Resnick had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Papale had nothing to report.

Councilman Humphreys had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Berry thanked the Police Department and Fire Department for their hard work.

Councilman Martin had nothing to report.

President Casadei asked Mr. Tartaglia if they were using any different salt this winter. He said the rain that they recently had didn't wash away the salt, and it looked like there was paint on Cambridge Rd.

Mr. Tartaglia said that they always receive what the State send them and he doesn't know of them changing providers.

Councilwoman Peterson had nothing to report.

Councilwoman Tumolo had nothing to report.

Closing Public Comment:

Fred Rich, 82 Chester Ave., asked what their intention was with the tree.

President Casadei said that they would have Mr. Tartaglia look at it.

Mr. Rich said that the American with Disabilities' Act representatives would be out and the Borough would be fined if they didn't take care of it.

Adjournment:

A motion was made by Councilman Martin to adjourn; seconded by Councilwoman Papale; and carried unanimously by a vote of 8-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kimberly A. Duffy
Clifton Heights Borough Secretary